

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application with independent claims 1-5, 11-15, 19, 22, and 24 amended herein

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,570,867 to Robinson in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,611,867 to Bowman -Amuah. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify a selection and notification section that selects a candidate subnetwork having a QoS capability that satisfies a target pattern representing a QoS-guaranteable target and service quality.

As best understood, Bowman-Amuah teaches only that a sub-network might be defined on the basis that it employs a particular technology, such as SDH and ATM, with its associated management. Robinson does not disclose any means for collecting the supported target pattern and the support service quality information defined as QoS capability information.

It is respectfully submitted that the relied upon portions of Robinson and Bowman-Amuah do not teach means for the collection of the QoS capability management information, specifically the supported target pattern representing a QoS-guaranteable target and service quality, from each subnetwork as recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the relied upon portions of the cited references and is allowable. For similar or somewhat similar reasons, independent claims 2-9, 11-15, 19, 22, and 24, patentably distinguish over the relied upon portions of the cited references and are allowable. Claims 10, 16-18, 20, 21, and 23, which depend from one of these allowable base claims, are allowable therewith.

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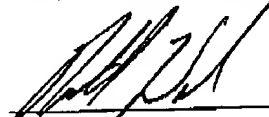
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CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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